

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A developing device, comprising:

a developing agent container that contains a developing agent;

a developing agent carrier that carries the developing agent;

a supply device that is disposed facing the developing agent carrier and in contact with the developing agent carrier and supplies the developing agent stored in the developing agent container to the developing agent carrier, the developing agent carrier and the supply device disposed below the developing agent container when the developing device is mounted in an image forming ~~apparatus~~; and apparatus;

a first ~~means-wall~~ that covers the entire portion of the supply device and prevents a weight of the developing agent contained in the developing agent container from directly acting in a vertical direction on an entirety of the supply device; ~~device~~;

a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing agent carrier at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing agent carrier and the supply device with respect to a movement direction of the developing agent carrier; and

a second wall having a first end disposed near a facing position of the developing agent and the layer thickness regulating member over the layer thickness regulating member when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the second wall having the second end opposite of the first wall, the second wall being inclined with the first end lower than the second end,

wherein the second wall is structured to guide the developing agent scraped from the developing agent carrier by the layer thickness regulating member to flow toward the developing agent container.

13. (Currently Amended) The developing device according to claim 12, further comprising:

~~a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing agent carrier at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing agent carrier and the supply device with respect to a movement direction of the developing agent carrier; and~~

a second means-wall that prevents the developing agent from accumulating above the layer thickness regulating member when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus.

14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a main frame; and

a developing unit that is attachable to and detachable from the main frame, the developing unit comprising:

a developing agent container that contains a developing agent;

a developing agent carrier that carries the developing agent;

a supply device that is disposed facing the developing agent carrier and in contact with the developing agent carrier and supplies the developing agent stored in the developing agent container to the developing agent carrier, the developing agent carrier and the supply device disposed below the developing agent container when the developing ~~device~~ unit is mounted in the main ~~easing-frame~~ frame of the image forming ~~apparatus; and~~ apparatus;

a first wall disposed between the developing agent container and the supply device and extends to completely cover the entirety of the supply device when the developing ~~device-unit~~ is mounted in the main ~~easing-frame~~ of the image forming ~~apparatus-apparatus~~;

a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing agent carrier at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing agent carrier and the supply device with respect to a movement direction of the developing agent carrier; and

a second wall having a first end disposed near a facing position of the developing agent and the layer thickness regulating member over the layer thickness regulating member when the developing unit is mounted in the main frame of the image forming apparatus, the second wall having the second end opposite of the first wall, the second wall being inclined with the first end lower than the second end,

wherein the second wall is structured to guide the developing agent scraped from the developing agent carrier by the layer thickness regulating member to flow toward the developing agent container.

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, comprising a plurality of developing agent containers, developing agent carriers, supply devices, and first walls in the same number as a plurality of colors for the developing agent.

17. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 16, comprising a plurality of second walls in the same number as a plurality of colors for the developing agent.

18. (Currently Amended) A developing unit for use with an electrophotographic print device, the developing unit comprising:

a casing having a front wall, a rear wall, a top wall, and a pair of side walls, the casing divided into a toner chamber and a developing chamber;

a first wall extending from the front wall into the casing to create the toner chamber and the developing chamber;

an agitator mounted in the toner chamber;

a supply roller mounted in the developing chamber adjacent to the first wall and the front wall;

a developing roller mounted in the developing chamber to contact the supply roller on a side away from the first wall;

a regulating blade extending from the rear wall and in contact with the developing roller; and

a second wall extending from the rear wall with a free end contacting the regulating blade at a side opposite where the regulating blade contacts the developing roller, wherein where the second wall is joined to the rear wall is closer to the toner chamber than where the free end of the second wall contacts the regulating ~~blade~~blade,

wherein the second wall is structured to guide the toner scraped from the developing roller by the regulating blade to flow toward the toner chamber.

19. (Original) The developing unit according to claim 18, wherein the first wall and the front wall form a recessed portion in which the supply roller is completely contained.

20. (Original) The developing unit according to claim 19, wherein a plane passing through the axis of the supply roller and the axis of the developing roller forms an acute angle with a vertical plane passing through the axis of the developing roller when the developing unit is mounted in the print device.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A developing device, comprising:

a developing agent container that contains a developing agent;

a developing agent carrier that carries the developing agent;

a supply device that is disposed facing the developing agent carrier and supplies the developing agent stored in the developing agent container to the developing agent carrier, the developing agent carrier and the supply device disposed below the developing agent container when the developing device is mounted in an image forming apparatus; ~~and apparatus;~~

a first wall that is disposed between the developing agent container and the supply device and covers the entirety of an upper portion of the supply device when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the first wall is integrally formed as one piece with a casing of the developing device; ~~device,~~

_____ wherein a space is provided between a free end of the first wall and the supply device,

_____ wherein a distance between the supply device and the first wall is smaller than the size of the supply device; ~~device;~~

_____ a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing agent carrier at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing agent carrier and the supply device with respect to a movement direction of the developing agent carrier; and

_____ a second wall having a first end disposed near a facing position of the developing agent and the layer thickness regulating member over the layer thickness regulating member when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the second wall having the second end opposite of the first wall, the second wall being inclined with the first end lower than the second end,

_____ wherein the second wall is structured to guide the developing agent scraped from the developing agent carrier by the layer thickness regulating member to flow toward the developing agent container.

23. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the supply device is a supply roller, and the distance between an outer surface of the supply roller and the first wall is smaller than a diameter of the supply roller.

24. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the distance between the supply device and the first wall is smaller than 10 mm or equal to 10mm.

25. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the supply device is a supply roller, and the first wall extends along an outer surface of the supply roller.

26. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the developing agent carrier and the supply device are urged into contact with each other at a facing position, and move in opposite directions at the contact position.

27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A developing device, comprising:

a developing agent container that contains a developing agent;

a developing agent carrier that carries the developing agent;

a supply device that is disposed facing the developing agent carrier and in contact with the developing agent carrier and supplies the developing agent stored in the developing agent container to the developing agent carrier, the developing agent carrier and the supply device disposed below the developing agent container when the developing device is mounted in an image forming ~~apparatus~~; and apparatus;

a first wall that is disposed between the developing agent container and the supply device and covers an upper portion of the supply device when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, wherein the first wall is disposed so as to store the entirety of the supply device within a plane of projection in a vertical direction from a free

end of the first wall when the developing device is mounted in the main casing of the image forming ~~apparatus-apparatus~~;

_____ a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing agent carrier at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing agent carrier and the supply device with respect to a movement direction of the developing agent carrier; and

_____ a second wall having a first end disposed near a facing position of the developing agent and the layer thickness regulating member over the layer thickness regulating member when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the second wall having the second end opposite of the first wall, the second wall being inclined with the first end lower than the second end,

_____ wherein the second wall is structured to guide the developing agent scraped from the developing agent carrier by the layer thickness regulating member to flow toward the developing agent container.

29. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the first wall is disposed so as to store the supply device within a plane of projection in a vertical direction of the first wall when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus.

30. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the first wall is disposed so as to produce a flow of the developing agent by moving the developing agent between the first wall and the supply device along with a movement of the supply device, when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus.

31. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the first wall is disposed near the supply device.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Currently Amended) The developing device according to ~~claim 32~~, claim 22, wherein the first end of the second wall inclines downward and a second end of the second wall inclines upward.

34. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the developing agent carrier is a developing roller, the supply device is a supply roller, and the developing roller and the supply roller are disposed such that an angle formed by a first line horizontally passing through a center of rotation of the developing roller and a second line connecting the center of rotation of the developing roller and a center of rotation of the supply roller is greater than or equal to 45 degrees, when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus.

35. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the developing agent is a toner having substantially spherical particles.

36. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the developing agent has a packed bulk density greater than or equal to 0.646 g/ml at an initial use.

37. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, further comprising an agitating member that is provided in the developing agent container and agitates the developing agent, wherein the agitating member moves, at the closest position to the developing agent carrier, in the same direction as a flow of the developing agent produced near the developing agent carrier by the movement of the developing agent carrier.

38. (Currently Amended) A developing device, comprising:
a developing agent container that contains a developing agent;
a developing roller that carries the developing agent; and
a supply roller that is disposed facing the developing roller and in contact with the developing roller to form a nip therewith, and supplies the developing agent stored in the

developing agent container to the developing roller, the developing roller and the supply roller disposed below the developing agent container when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, wherein the supply roller is disposed above the developing roller when the developing device is mounted in the image forming ~~apparatus;~~ apparatus, and wherein the developing roller and the supply roller are disposed such that an angle formed by a first line horizontally passing through a center of rotation of the developing roller and a second line connecting the center of rotation of the developing roller and a center of rotation of the supply roller is greater than or equal to 45 degrees, when the developing device is mounted in the image forming ~~apparatus,~~ further comprising apparatus;

_____ a first wall that is disposed between the developing agent container and the supply roller and covers an entirety of the supply roller when the developing device is mounted in the image forming ~~apparatus;~~ apparatus;

_____ a layer thickness regulating member that regulates a thickness of the developing agent carried on the developing roller at a downstream side from a facing position of the developing roller and the supply roller with respect to a rotational direction of the developing roller; and

_____ a second wall having a first end disposed near a facing position of the developing agent and the layer thickness regulating member over the layer thickness regulating member when the developing device is mounted in the image forming apparatus, the second wall having the second end opposite of the first wall, the second wall being inclined with the first end lower than the second end,

_____ wherein the second wall is structured to guide the developing agent scraped from the developing roller by the layer thickness regulating member to flow toward the developing agent container.

39. (Canceled).

40. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 39, wherein the first wall extends along an outer surface of the supply roller.

41. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 12, wherein the developing device is attachable to and detachable from a main casing of the image forming apparatus.

42. (Canceled).

43. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 22, wherein the developing device is attachable to and detachable from a main casing of the image forming apparatus.

44. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 28, wherein the developing device is attachable to and detachable from a main casing of the image forming apparatus.

45. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 38, wherein the developing device is attachable to and detachable from a main casing of the image forming apparatus.

46. (Previously Presented) The developing device according to claim 35, wherein the toner is a single-component toner